IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE DIVISION

STATE OF TENNESSEE, ET AL.)
Plaintiffs,)
) Civil Action No. 3:24-cv-00224
V.) Judge Charles E. Atchley, Jr.
) Magistrate Judge Debra C. Poplin
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY	
COMMISSION, ET AL.)
Defendants.)

PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER AND UNOPPOSED MOTION TO VACATE HEARING

As Defendants' recent motion indicates, the Plaintiff States do not oppose vacating the oral argument currently scheduled for January 27, 2025, in light of the recent Executive Order *Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government.* That order makes clear the position of the United States: that Title VII neither requires "gender identity-based access to single-sex spaces" nor inhibits "the freedom to express the binary nature of sex ... in work-places." *See* https://perma.cc/E6P5-DSYA. That position is correct, for reasons the Plaintiff States have explained. PI Br. 11-18, Dkt. #33; PI Reply 6-7, Dkt. #83.

Given this case's current posture, the Plaintiff States submit that resolving their pending preliminary injunction motion on the papers would best "conserve limited judicial resources." Order 1, Dkt. #86. The States' analysis tracks not only the Executive Order's correct legal view, but also this Court's decision in *Tennessee v. Department of Education*, 615 F. Supp. 3d 807 (E.D. Tenn. 2022), and the Sixth Circuit's decision affirming this Court on all relevant fronts in *Tennessee v. Department of Education*, 104 F.4th 577 (6th Cir. 2024). And the States' need for relief persists. Although the Executive Order directs the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC" or "Commission") to rescind the Enforcement Guidance on Harassment in the Workplace ("Enforcement Document"), Dkt. #1-2, to date EEOC's controlling majority has given no indication that it will do so.¹ Until EEOC rescinds the Enforcement Document, the Plaintiff States remain subject to its mandates and will continue to suffer ongoing, irreparable harm. *See* Mot. for Prelim. Inj., Dkt. #32. Thus, the pending request for preliminary relief remains ripe for resolution, and the States are prepared to proceed in any manner this Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ In response to the Executive Order, the Democratic EEOC Commissioners—who comprise a majority of the Commission—issued a statement affirming protections for "LGBTQI+ workers" and promising to continue to "hold employers accountable if they ... permit a hostile work environment" on those purportedly "protected grounds." Jocelyn Samuels (@JSamuelsEEOC), X (Jan. 21, 2025, 3:33 PM), https://perma.cc/E7WT-HUCD.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on January 22, 2025, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served via the Court's electronic filing system to the following counsel of record.

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